

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01294 241822Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241831 030922 /41

R 241516Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1932

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1294

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR NEA - ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY, US
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWS

1. AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF NEXT STEPS USG MIGHT BEST
TAKE TO ASSIST DEPARTURE OF THOSE SYRIAN JEWS WISHING TO
EMIGRATE TO US, RECOMMEND THAT MEETING BE ORGANIZED WITH GEORGE
GRUEN OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS:

A. WHICH ORGANIZATION IS BEST EQUIPPED TO ENCOURAGE RELATIVES
OF AMERICAN CITIZENS TO APPLY FOR VISITORS RPT VISTORS
VISAS TO US.

B. HOW TO COMMUNICATE DELICATE POINT THAT LETTERS INVITING
RELATIVES TO THE STATES SHOULD SPEAK ONLY OF VISITS AND NOT OF
EMIGRATION. AT NO POINT, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD, HAS SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT SPOKEN TO US ABOUT GRANTING RIGHT TO EMIGRATE.

C. HOW TO DEAL WITH PREDICATABLE QUESTION ABOUT
LIQUIDATING ASSETS OWNED BY MEMBERS OF SYRIAN JEWISH
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COMMUNITY WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE BUT CANNOT BECAUSE OF B.
ABOVE,GIVE ANY SILN TO AUTHORITIES THAT THIS IS THEIR REAL
INTENTION.

2. I BELIEVE TIME OPPORTUNE TO START MOVEMENT ON THIS
ISSUE. I AM ENCOURAGED BY TWO RECENT INCIDENTS. FIRST
OCCURRED IN DECEMBER WHEN SYRIAN AUTHORITIES BECAME

AWARE OF ILLEGAL DEPARTURE OF TWO YOUNG MEN FROM DAMASCUS COMMUNITY WHO SLIPPED ACROSS BORDER INTO TURKEY. RABBI GOODRICH WHO VISITED DAMASCUS IN EARLY FEBRUARY WAS TOLD BY COMMUNITY LEADERS THAT AUTHORITIES HAD MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT DEPARTURE OF YOUTHS BUT HAD APPLIED NO SANCTIONS WHATSOEVER TO THEIR FAMILIES. SECOND INSTANCE IS THAT OF JEWISH FATHER AND DAUGHTER WHO RECEIVED VISA FROM OUR EMBASSY LAST WEEK TO TAKE DAUGHTER TO US FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. BOND WAS SET AT RECORD LOW OF 10,000 (D2,500) VICE FORMER AMOUNTS IN RANGE OF 25,000-35,000 LS. (1(\$6,375-8,925).

3. ONE OF OUR PROBLEMS AS NOTED IN DAMASCUS 939 IS THAT AMERICAN SIDE IS ANXIOUS TO MOVE OUT FAST WHILE LOCAL COMMUNITY WISHES PROCEED VERY CAUTIOUSLY, BY NATURAL

INCLINATION AND LEST WHOLE PROGRAM BE PREJUDICED. HOWEVER, A BEGINNING SHOULD BE MADE.

4. FINALLY, THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL CASE RAISED IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN THAT OF MRS. SARAH QOSS (LETTER OF NEA DIRECTOR DRAPER OF 10/13/76 TO MRS. QOSS' DAUGHTER, MRS. RACHEL GROSS.) BELIEVE HER CASE SHOULD ALSO BE RAISED WITH GRUEN OR WITH WHOMEVER ELSE DEPARTMENT DECIDES IS MOST DISCREET AND EFFECTIVE CHANNEL TO STIMULATE MESSAGE FROM DAUGHTER TO MOTHER WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE PASSPORT APPLICATION BY MOTHER IN ALEPPO.

5. GUREN INFORMED US THAT RABBI HECHT WAS PLANNING
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TO VISIT SYRIA LATER THIS SPRING WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS CONGREGATION. THIS VISIT WILL BE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE IN TERMS OF STRENGTHENING DIRECT LINKS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DAMASCUS AND BROOKLYN COMMUNITIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON RABBI HECHT'S PLANS.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC01294
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770064-0782
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770214/aaaaamlr.tel
Line Count: 103
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3471c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 3244412
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWS
TAGS: PINT, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3471c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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